(a) the percentage of population and area in Uttaranchal having access to Radio and Television;

(b) whether his Ministry is working on a scheme to enlarge the coverage of Radio and Television in the current Five Year Plan keeping in view sensitivity of the State; and

(c) if so, the percentage of population which is expected to have access to both the medium at the end of current Five Year Plan alongwith the details of the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Primary grade radio coverage (MW & FM) in Uttaranchal is available to 77.37% of the population with 52.8% area coverage. TV coverage in terrestrial mode is available to 81.4% of the population with 51.4% area of the State.

(b) and (c) Eight new radio stations and five low power radio transmitters are proposed to be set-up in Uttaranchal during the Tenth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources. On their completion, 87.36% of the population in Uttaranchal is expected to be covered by terrestrial radio transmission.

TV coverage to hitherto uncovered areas in the country, including those in Uttaranchal, has now been provided through KU Band transmission (Free to Air DTH Service) and as such, no new terrestrial TV transmitters are proposed to be set up in Uttaranchal State.

Shifting of Telugu news

2092. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift Telugu News in All India Radio from Delhi to Hyderabad; and

(b)ifso by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Due to non-availability of permanent staff to read news in various languages in Delhi, the Prasar Bharati has decided to shift the AIR Units including Telugu News to concerned State Headquarters in a phased manner.